

# **Elementary Principal Report**

## **July 2025**

### Elementary Summer School

Before starting her new journey in Arizona, Mrs. Thomas organized another great year of learning enrichment for our summer school students. She had help from 3 paraprofessionals ... Ms. Dawn Odell, Mrs. Lesli Weatherwax, and Ms. Lynze Weatherwax. Ms. Shari Mues, a community volunteer, also came in and volunteered time to read and work with our students. We had a total of 22 students attend summer school with 17 students attending 10 or more days. Summer school for the elementary students operated 3 hours a day for 15 days in June.

### Preschool / Elementary Handbooks

The Preschool and Elementary Handbooks were reviewed with no major changes to report.

### Elementary Staff

There will be several new teachers in the Elementary this year. Mrs. Bradi Schutz will be teaching fourth grade, Ms. Carina Atterberry will be teaching sixth grade, Mrs. Lana Durbin is joining us as a team teacher and will be teaching first and third graders, Mrs. Deb McDonald is returning to Arapahoe as our elementary special education teacher, and Mr. Mark Messner will be teaching fifth and sixth grade band. We have two new teachers in the high school as well Mrs. Martha Bergquist will teach English and Ms. Ryan Pettis will teach Business. I would like to welcome all of our new teachers and I am looking forward to working with each of them.

### Upcoming Professional Development

I will be attending Administrators' Days in Kearney July 23-25. This is always a great learning opportunity with great guest speakers and time to connect with fellow principals. Thank you for allowing me to attend this event to stay up to date with the latest happenings in educational law and best practices in the classroom. Later in the fall, I plan to attend a two day conference in Denver relating to student behavior and discipline. The conference is Restorative Practices: Alternatives to Suspension. The first day, September 22, will focus on transforming traditional consequences into meaningful accountability. The second day, September 23, will focus on the art and science of changing behavior. Managing student discipline and trying to understand the why of student behavior is an important part of my day. I am always looking for new and creative ways to help students have better days and make better decisions.

### Open House

We will be welcoming students back to school with an Open House on August 13th at 7pm. Students and their families will be invited to meet their teachers, see their classrooms, and put supplies away. Our teachers do a great job of preparing for this night and creating excitement for a new school year.